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SOURCE Hsin-hua Yueh-pao (New China Monthly), Vol I, No 5, 1950.

RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFORTS OF SINKIANG ARMY
TO RESTORE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Comment: The following article, by Wang Chen, published in
 the Hsin-hua Yueh-pao, carried the subtitle "Summary of a Report
 to the Sinkiang Financial and Economic Committee on 16 January 1950."

Urumchi, 4 February (Hsin-hua) -- The Army production plan for the Sinkiang
 Military District calls for the cultivation of 600,000 mou (or 40,000 hectares)
 of land which is expected to yield 500,000 piculs [one picul equals 133 pounds]
 of foodstuffs and 18,000 piculs of cotton. The Army Command Headquarters of
 Sinkiang District has issued an order to its subordinate units calling upon
 them to struggle for the fulfillment of this production goal. An educational
 program concerning this production drive should be initiated in military units
 at all levels.

The production committee of each military unit should study the factors af-
 fecting agricultural production, including the problem of supply of farm imple-
 ments. The committee should examine the over-all situation and draw up its own
 production schedule. Each army division or regiment should hold a representa-
 tive meeting to discuss related matters. Soldiers belonging to the same mess
 hall should hold meetings to discuss how to carry out the production schedule.
 Every effort must be made to rally the entire army to increase production.

In addition to carrying out the solemn tasks of defending the motherland,
 maintaining internal order, wiping out bandits and spies and dealing effectively
 with subversive activities by spies and feudal elements, the People's Libera-
 tion Army of Sinkiang should participate in the production movement. This parti-
 cipation is of great significance.

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Sinkiang is very close geographically to the Soviet Union. It has rich mineral resources, fertile soils and natural pasture lands. With permanent co-operation between China and Soviet Union and with the assistance given by the latter we can build in Sinkiang a modern industrial center. Therefore, the army's participation in production is not merely a matter of temporary advantage; our long-range interests requires it. Officers in each army unit should take personal responsibility in the production drive. They should not only take part in planning but also in actual production activities. Financial accounts should be open for public inspection. We should fully utilize the native genius of the soldiers as a collective organization.

The production schedule should be drawn up by democratic procedure and criticism conducted in a democratic manner. All soldiers should be organized for the purpose of drawing up the schedule and supervising its execution. They should give to these productive activities the same enthusiasm which they give to the management of their own households. They should contribute to the wealth of society. The army's participation in production does not mean that it competes with the people for a livelihood. On the contrary, it helps the people. We must develop the benefits of collective work to show the people of Sinkiang the desirability of a collective economy. Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the army production drive will undoubtedly stimulate the modernization of Sinkiang's agriculture and industry. The army will certainly play an important part in the economic life of Sinkiang and of the nation.

In this production drive, the army will concentrate on agriculture. Sinkiang possesses rich water-power resources which can reclaim thousands of acres of arid land. In fact, the army can relieve the food shortage in Sinkiang. This is due mainly to the vastness of the territory of Sinkiang and the underdeveloped transportation system. To fulfill the production goal we must mobilize the whole army to the task. We must rely on the masses and employ democratic means to rally all members of the armed forces for the battle of production. No one should be left out. We must organize a labor force ranging from 100,000 to 110,000 for agricultural work. We should employ 20,000 horses or other draft animals to operate 10,000 plows.

In addition, there should be 60,000 to 70,000 hoes for hand work. Our purpose is to cultivate 40,000 hectares of land so that the army can get a supply of grains, vegetables, spices, oils, linen, cotton, and other crops. Persons who engage in work other than agricultural should also find means to attain self-sufficiency in grains and vegetable.

The army's agricultural and cattle raising plans are as follows:

Agriculture Plan

Cotton acreage 4,000 hectares, producing about 60,000 piculs (seeds 42,000 piculs and lint cotton 18,000 piculs).

Food crop acreage 35,000 hectares, yielding about 525,000 piculs. (Note: One hectare is estimated to produce 15 piculs of wheat millet, corn, or kaoliang. By growing food in the locality where the army is stationed the government will save transportation expenses, amounting to 200 percent of the cost of the food).

Livestock

Some 20,000 hogs will be raised by the end of June and 40,000 by the end of October. The following are also to be raised: 200,000 sheep, 20,000 cows and 200,000 chickens. Domesticated fowls will be introduced to swampy areas.

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Methods to Be Followed

The Army should plant crops according to the natural environment and the needs of the people. Some areas are suitable for wheat and kaoliang while other areas are better suited for growing rice and cotton. The mounted troops should use their special knowledge of animals to raise livestock on a large scale. They should build more veterinary stations and modern cattle ranches. They should import better breeds. The provincial government should provide assistance to the mounted troops. The mounted troops should also work to attain self-sufficiency in grains, vegetables, and feed. Establishments for animal-hair collecting, wool-washing, and leather-processing should also be established by the army.

In accordance with Chairman Mao's directive, production committees should form cooperatives to correspond with the levels of command in the army. The basic cooperative is the one at the regiment level. The regiment cooperative should have control over the use of funds appropriated for production purposes and should take charge of the productive activities. It should sell its products to the farmers and purchase daily necessities, such as soap and toothbrushes for its members. It should endeavor to mobilize the savings of the individuals for the building of mechanized farms and workshops.

Under the direction of the state trading enterprises, the cooperatives should negotiate the handling of native products and the purchase of daily necessities for the people. The transactions between the enterprises and the cooperatives aim at improving the standards of living of the people. Thus they should be carried out according to the rules and procedures prescribed by the Department of Commerce, which sets the fees and transportation expenses. Profitteering is strictly forbidden.

To develop Sinkiang's agricultural production it is necessary to develop irrigation. We plan to complete within 2 years a number of irrigation projects which will benefit about 100,000 hectares of land. Taking into account water resources, soils, economic conditions, and transport facilities, projects were set up for the following areas: Ha-mi, 4,000 hectares; Urumchi, 4,000 hectares; Sha-wan, Sui-lai, Yen-chi and Hai-ti area, 20,000 hectares; Kuldja, 10,000 hectares; Karashah and Korla, 50,000 hectares; A-k'o-su, 4,000 hectares; and Hashin and Khotan 10,000 hectares. All work with earth, wood, and stone will be performed by the army under the direction of engineers, technicians, and skilled workers. Construction materials used in the projects will be locally financed except for manufactured materials to be provided by the provincial government. The irrigation department of the provincial government must give its full efforts to developing irrigation projects.

We should divide the entire district into planting areas. In each area we should build structures of canvas and Mongol yurts as temporary quarters. Permanent living quarters for the planting army will be built in 2 or 3 years. After the plans for constructing camps are drawn up we should rally the soldiers to put them into effect.

An adequate food supply for Sinkiang, including grains, vegetable, meats, and fats is the prime consideration. We must develop agricultural production, cattle raising, animal husbandry, fishing, silkworm cultivation, and additional food sources. When we have a plentiful supply of daily necessities, we then can start a program of industrialization.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao and Commander in Chief Chu Te, the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army have manifested unusual bravery and defeated well-equipped domestic and foreign enemies. They have displayed perseverance in coping with difficulties, a spirit of self-reliance and the virtue of hard work. There are still many problems to be solved

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to step up production. An overwhelming majority of our comrades are strong in the faith that we will achieve victory in the struggle along the production front. We can rely on our own labor to obtain daily necessities, to improve our standards of living, and to keep us in good health. We can then overcome the present financial difficulties and ease the burden of the state and of the people.

Furthermore, if we succeed in developing Sinkiang's agriculture, we can step by step lay the foundations for industrialization. By the sweat of our brows we have built our own country and given livelihood to our officers and soldiers, including their families. We cannot afford to fail in this production plan. We must succeed. We must struggle to go even beyond the army production plan.

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